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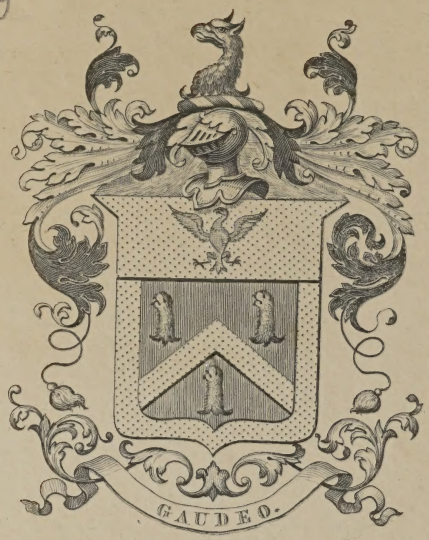

John Carter Brown.

~~Cat. n.d. XVIII century~~

See A Letter from South Carolina
Lond. 1710, Prob. by Thomas
Naime. This ms. seems to
be an early draft of the
Letter.

JOHN CARTER BROWN

A Description of Carolina

M.S.

RPJCB

A Description of Carolina

Carolina is a Province of the English America joining on the N.E. to Virginia between 36 and 29 Degrees N. Lat it is divided into two Governm.ts comonly calld N. and S. Carolina N.o Carolina joins to Virginia and that part thereof now inhabited by the English lyes in 35. or 36 Degrees N.o Lat The parts of S. Carolina now posessed by the English lye in 32 and 33 Degrees N. Lat and about 74 Degrees W. Longitude from the Lands End of England Between the same Parralels with S. Carolina lye some of the most fertile Countrys in the World as some parts of the Coast of Barbary All the middle parts of China from the middle to the S. parts of Japan those Countrys of India about Jahore, the best part of Persia Eygypt and Syria

Scituation Carolina is in general a Plain Champian Country having no considerable Hills for the space of 1000 Miles together along the Coast within 100 Miles of the Sea there are however almost everywhere Risings or gentle Ascents from 5 feet to 50. 60. or 70 above the Levell of the highest Tide, Behind these vast Champian Countrys lye a high Ridge of Mountains which beginning in the Lat of 34.o 90 or 100 Miles to the Eastward of the Missisipi run almost parralel to the Sea Coast behind Florida

Florida both the Carolina's Virginia and Mary Land
the most comon and usual distance from the foot of the Moun
=tains towards the Sea is about 200 Miles the Springs and
Fountains of most of our great Rivers are in these Hills
which abound with innumerable Rivulets and these
meeting afterwards together form many large Rivers by
the Courses of which it appears that the Land has a grad=
=ual thô insensible Descent from the Mountains to the Sea
this great Plain is one continued Forest well stock'd with
Oaks of several Kinds Chestnut Wallnut Hickery several
Kinds of Fir Cedar Poplar or the Tuliptree Laurell Bay
Myrtle Hazel Beech Ash Elm and variety of others whose
names are scarce known The Sea Coast is full of Islands
Sounds Bays Marshes Rivers and Creeks of Salt water
where the Tide useth to rise from 5 to 7 feet seldom higher
these are well stored with great variety of excellent Fish
the most comon whereof are Bass Drum Whiting Strouts
herrings Mullets Rocks Sturgeon Shads Sheeps heads
Plaice Turtle Crabs Oysters Muscels Cockles Shrimps &c Such
Fish that are common and not eaten are Whales Grampusses
Sharks Dogfish Garb Stingrays Sawfish Fiddlers & Perrivinkles

This Province is capable of Containing above 60 times
the Number of its present Inhabitants and there is no place on
the Continent of America where People can transport themsel
=ves to greater Advantage Now as S. Carolina far excells the
other in Improvem.ts and Navigable Rivers I shall confine my
Discourse

Discourse to that and acquaint you with its Product Trade Govern=
=ment People Laws and lastly with an Account of what is necessary to
Settle a man Comfortably there besides the things already mentioned—

South-Carolina naturally produces black Mulberry
Wallnuts Chesnuts Chincapines which is a Small Chestnut & five or Six
kinds of Acrons which the Indians like the Primitive Race of Mankind
make use of for food wild Potatoes and several other eatable Roots
wild Plumbs Variety of Grapes Medlers Huckle berries Straw berries
Hasel nuts Myrtle berrys of which Wax is made also Cedar berries Sumac
Sassafars China Root great and Small Snake root with variety of other
Physicall roots and Herbs and many flowers which spring up of them=
=selves and flourish in their kinds every Season of the year many things
have likewise been transplanted hither which thrive very well with us
as white Mulberries Grapes from Madeira and elswhere all Sorts of
English garden herbs Six or Seven Sorts of Potatoes all of them very
good Indian Corn three Sorts Indian Pears 5 or 6 kinds Indian beans
of Several Sorts Kidney beans french beans Pompions Squashes Gourds
Cucumbers Musk Melons Water Melons Tobacco Rice of 3 or 4 Sorts
Oats Rie barley and some wheat tho' not much

Our fruits are Apples Pears Quinces figs 3 or 4 kinds of
Oranges Pomgranates Peaches 14 or 15 Sorts tho' we have as great
a Variety of good peaches as are in any part of the World yet the
principal use is to feed Hogs for which End great Orchards are planted
the Peach tree with us are all Standards they yeild fruit in 3 years
from the Stone the fourth bear plentifully and the fifth are large spread
=ing trees most kinds of British fruit prosper best up in the Country
at Some distance from Salt Water but figs Peach Pomgranates &
grow best near the Sea Our Season of Sowing is from the 1st of March

to

to the 10th. of June the principal Seedtime of Rice from the 1st of April to the 20. of May, of Indian Corn Peas and Beans the last week of March all April May and the first 10 days of June in March and April we sett Potatoes Pompions Cucumbers Melons Kidneybeans &c the usual produce of an Acre of Indian Corn is from 18 to 30 - bushels and 6 Bushels of Indian Peas which Run like a Vine - upon the Corn about a gallon of Indian Corn Sowe th an Acre Rice is Sown in furrows about 18 Inches distant a peck usualy Sow's an Acre which yeilds seldom less than 30 bushels or more than 60 but between these two as the land is either better or worse Rice is Reaped in Sept.r to the End of Octo.r Indian Corn and peas from Octo.r to the 10th. of Nov.r Several kinds of Pulse are ripe in May and June We have Pompions Cucumbers Squashes which ripen and are eaten all the Summer from the middle of June to the first of Octo.r figtrees bear twice a year one ripe at the end of June the other all Aug.t by so great variety of Peaches Melocotons & Nectarins there is this advantage that we have them in Season from the 20th. of June to the end of Sept.r for during all this time one kind or - other of them are in it's perfection Rice is cleared by Mills turned with Oxen or horses It is very much planted not only as it is a Vendible Commodity but because it thrives best in low moist - lands it Inclines people very much to Improve this sort of Land which being a few years planted with Rice and then laid by - turns to best pasture Silk worms with us are hatched about the 6th of March Nature having wisely ordered them to enter - into the new form of being at the time Mulberry leaves which are their food begin to open being attended and fed Six weeks they eat no more but have Small Bushes Sett up for them to Spin them - selves

selves into Balls which thrown into warm water are wound off into Raw Silk, Rosin Tarr and Pitch are produced from Pine trees Rosin by Cutting Channels in the standing green trees that meet in the point at the foot of the Tree where 2 or three small peices of board are fitted to receive it the Channels are cut as high as one can reach with an Ax and the bark is peeled off from all those parts of the tree that are exposed to the Sun that the heat of it may the more easily force out the Turpentine which falling on the boards placed at the roots is gathered in heaps which melted in great kettles becomes Rosin, Tarr is made thus they prepare a circular floor of Clay declining a little towards the Center from which is laid a Pile of wood whose upper part is even with the floor and reaches 2 feet without the Circumference under this end the earth is dug away and barrels put to receive it as it runs, On the floor is built a large pile of dry pine wood split in peices and surrounded with a Wall of earth which Covers it all over only a little at the Top where the fire is first kindled, after the fire begins to burn the Cover that likewise with earth to the end there may be no flame, but only Air Sufficient to force out the Tarr downwards into the floor they temper the heat as they please by thrusting a Stick thrô and thrô the Earth and letting the Air in at as many places as they see convenient Pitch is made either by boiling tarr in large Iron kettles Set in ffurnaces or by burning it in the Ground in Clay holes

South Carolina abounds with black Cattle to a Degree beyond any other English Colony which is chiefly owing to the mildness of the winter whereby the Planters are freed from the trouble of providing for them Suffering them to feed all the Winter in the Woods these Creatures have mightily increased since the first Setting of the Colony about 40 years ago it was reckoned a great

Deal

deal to have 3 or four Cows but now some People have 1000 head but for One man to have 200 is common We have likewise Hogs in abundance which go daily to the Woods to feed and come home at night also Some Sheep and Goats there are tame fowls in abundance of all Sorts and great variety of wild fowl as Turkeys Geese Ducks wild Pidgeons Patridges Brants Shieldrakes Teale and near the Sea Curlieus Brants Herons Snipe Pellicans Gannets Seahawks with many others The beasts which the Woods afford for Game are Coneys Hoges Raccoons Possumes Squirrels Wild Cats Deer Elks Buffloes Bears Tygers wild Kine and Hogs tho the names of some of these Creatures are frightfull to those that never saw them yet they are not so to us for there is none of them but will fly from Men nor do they any Injury but to Sheep hogs and young Cattle

The Air of Carolina is generally clear and fine, even when the greatest Rains fall, the Weather does not continue long cloudy, for the Sun soon dissipates the Fogs, and restores the Air to its usual Serenity, during the heat of Summer the rain is very refreshing and agreeable, & the Thunder, that accompanys them, (tho naturally terrible) is welcome, on Acct of its rarefieing the Air. Earthquakes have never yet been known, or heard of in this Country, the heats of Carolina are indeed troublesom to Strangers, in June, July and Augt in which Months are Smart Claps of thunder, tho welcome doing any prejudice, but the Inconvenience of the heat, during that time, is made easie by the Groves, open Airy Rooms, Harbours, and Summer houses, and to make amends for it, no Country can afford pleasanter weather, in the Spring, Fall and greatest part of Winter, Sept. and Octo. are pleasant dry months, neither hot nor cold Dec. and Jan. are moderately cold, Sometimes accompanyed with cold

Sharp

Sharp N.W winds and frosts, which seldom last above 3 days at a time. There is Scarce ever any Snow, or if it does fall it lyes not above one night. Feb.y and March are pleasant fair dry monthes, Answering in Temperature to April and May in England, which with us are very agreeable monthes, the weather then being clear and fair, refreshed with gentle Showers, once in ten or 12 days, but equal in heat to June & July in England. THE TRADE, between South Carolina and England, does one year with another, employ 200 Sail of Ships, laden with all Sorts of Woolen Cloths, Stuffs and Druggets, Linnens, Hollands printed Linnens and Callicoes, Silks and Muzlins, Nails of all Sizes, Hoes, Hatchet, and all kinds of Iron ware, bedsticks, Strong beer, bottled Cyder, Raisins, fine earthen ware, Pipes, Paper, Rugs, blankets, Quilts, Hats, from 2 to 12 Shill.gs price, Stockings from 1 to 8 Shill.gs price, Gloves, pewter dishes, Plates, Brass and Copper ware, Guns, Powder, Bullets, Flints, Glass, Beds, Cordage, Wool and Cotton Cards, Steel hand Mills, grind Stones, looking and drinking glasses, Lace thread Course and fine, Mohair and all kinds of trimming for Cloths, Pins, Needles &c.a In Return for which are remitted from hence about 70000 Deer Skins a year, some Firs, Rosin, Pitch, Tarr, Raw Silk, Rice, and formerly Indigo, but since all this don't ballance the Continual Demand of European Goods and Negroe Slaves, Sent us by the English Merchants, there is likewise Sent to England, Some Cocoa Nuts, Sugar, Tortoise Shell, Money and other things, which we have from the American Islands, in Return for our provisions. Besides the 200 Sail above ment.d there Enter & Clear annualy about 60 Sail of Ships, Sloops & Brigantines, at the Port of Charlestown, all from Affrica or from Jamaica, St. Thomas's, Curraso, Barbados, and the Leeward Islands. We have Rum, Mollasses, Cotton, Chocholate made up, Cocoa Nuts, Negroes and

Money &c.

Money. In return whereof We send Beef, Pork, butter, Candles, Soap, Tallow, Myrtle wax Candles, Rice, Pine boards, Shingles, hoops, Staves, and heads for barrells. From New England, New York & Pensylvania, we have Wheat flour, Biskett, Strong Beer, Cyder, Salt fish, Onions, Apples, hops, and return them, tanned hydes, Small Deer Skins, Furrs, Rice, Slaves taken by the Indians in War, Some Tarr, and Pitch. From Madeira, and the Western Island we have Wine, & in Return send them provisions, Staves and heads for Barrels. Our Salt comes from the Bahama Islands. From Guinea & other parts of the Coast of Affrica, are Imported Negroe Slaves, but the Ships that bring them, being sent with the Fleets to purchase them from England, the Returns are Sent thither. In vain would all the advantages of a fine Air, fruitfull Soil, and good Trade bestow'd, if not encouraged to Improve them, by a Good Govern[m]t. and Laws; even our Mountains are preferable to Lombardy it self, if one must there be Subject to the Caprice, and absolute pleasure of a French Intendant. But this Colony was founded upon the Pen[n]. principles of Civil and Religious liberty, on which noble foundation it has been raised to its present height. And because it is a received Maxim, that all things prosper best by the use of the same means where by they were first formed, the People have not been wanting to Secure these valuable priviledges, the Assemblys having past Laws, from time to time, to transmit these blessings to Posterity, and fully & largly, as we enjoy them at present. So that the Civil rights of English Men, together with a just impartial and intire liberty of Conscience are as firmly Secured to the Inhabitants of this Province as Acts of the Generall Assembly can make them, the known Laws among us are the Measures and bounds of Power, the highest in Power cannot

Insult

Insult, the meanest Fines, Imprisonm.ts, Death or Punishm.ts are not left to the Arbitrary Decisions of Governours, or Judges but are nicely & particularly preserved by the Laws; which they who are Intrusted with the Executive part of the Govermm.t are obliged to know their bounds, so far they may go & no further. It is not here as in other Countrys, where Slavery is fixt and Strugling with Chains, which Riot strikes them the faster, but Liberty, is so well and equally established, that whatsoever mismanagem.ts may be occasioned by those, who have the Administration, while the Sence of Freedom remains, the Vigour of the Constitution will throw off the Politick diseases, & restore the Publick to a State of health &c

The foundation of this Govermm.t is a Charter granted by King Charles the Second to Eight Proprietors which together with a Title to the Said gives them ample Privileges and Jurisdictions particularly all such as are anyway necessary to the forming or Ordering a Body Politick reserving always an Allegiance to the Crown of England And to the People who shall Settle in Carolina all Rights Libertys and ffranchises of Englishmen by which ~~limitation~~ express limitation in behalf of his Subjects the King put it out of his power to lay any hard ships upon them contrary to the Laws of England

This Province is at present in the hands of the Right Honble Lord William Craven Palatine The most Noble Henry Duke of Beaufort S.r John Colliton the Right Honble Lord Carteret Maurice Ashley Esq.r Mr. John Danson and Mr. Blake a Minr. The Power of Palatine is considerable for he has a Negative in all Orders or Decisions of the whole board neither can the Proprietors hold a board without he is present or one to Act as Delegate from him he cannot however Enact any thing without the Concurrance of 4 Proprietors besides himself The Same place that the Palatine hath at the board of Proprietors

Proprietors in England the Governour hath in Carolina besides the power granted by Commission the Governour calls & presides in all Councills of State which consist of ~~8 Proprietors~~ the Eight Proprietors Deputys who with the Consent of 4 Deputys calls Prorogues or dissolves the General Assembly appoints Civill Officers such as the Justices of the Peace he Assents or Dissents from a Law hath a Negative Voice in all Acts Orders or Ordinances of the Several Assemblys he alone Commissionates all Military Officers and disposes of the Militia according to Law for the Defence of the Colony he bears the Title of Governour Captain General and Admiral of S.o and N.o Carolina in all Affairs except Military every Councellor hath an equal vote with the Governour and he can do nothing without the Concurrence of four of them at least while the Parliament Sits the Govern.r with the Seven Deputys make the upper house in the Intervals of Parliam.t they are the Council of that and Court of Chancery

The Governour of S.o Carolina is appointed by Commission signed by the Palatine and at least 4 of the Lords Proprietors during pleasure Each Member of the Councill hath a Deputation from one or other of the Proprietors whom he represents on the Death or Resignation of any Member of the Councill the Vacancy is filled up by the Votes of the Majority of those who remain and upon the death of any Govern.r one of the Proprietors Deputys is elected Govern.r by the rest who continues so until their Lordships send over another from England or a new Commission to somebody else The form of Governm.t is as near as can be to that of England the Legislature consists of two Chambers the the upper which is composed of the 8 Proprietors Deputys & the

Lower

Lower, which consist of 30 Representatives, chosen by the people. By the Laws, the Govern.r is to call an Assembly every two years, the General Assembly is called by Writts, Issued out of the Secretarys Office, under the Seal of the Colony, and Test of the Govern.r these are directed to the Sherriff of each County, bearing date 40 days before the Return, and he is to take care that they are duly Published The first business of the Commons is to Chuse a Speaker which being done they present him to the Govern.r in a full House who approves him then they return to their own house to doe business Chusing Committees and in all other respects imitateing the house of Commons in England as nigh as possible; the Lower House Seldom pass Acts or Impositions for any time longer than two years the reason is that themselves be necessary and retain that power they have by Law and preserve the just ballance of Govern.mt they likewise claim all the Powers Privileges and immunitys which the house of Commons have in Great Brittain they Appoint the Publick Treasurer call him to an Acco.t and dismiss him when they See fit by a Vote of their house for it is a received Opinion among them that the power of appointing Examining Censuring and displaceing those who have the Publick money in their hands is much better Lodged in the house of Commons who have so great an Interest in the Colony than in the hands of any Govern.r for Reasons generally known in America The lower house likewise presents to the Govern.r all Persons who are to receive his Commissions or have any Sallary out of the Publick Treasury such as Captains of Forts and the like The Govern.r it is true hath the Power of Granting Commissions to those and other Officers but than the Treasurer cannot pay them any Sallary unless they have been first Recommended by the house of Commons All Bills generally begun and are formed in the house of Commons but no Act Order or Ordinance is of any force without having passed both houses in due

Parliamentary

Parliamentary form all Bills are read three several times on three several days in each house before they can pass into a Law the Method of Ratifying Laws is this after a Bill or Bills have passed both houses in due form the Clerk of the lower is Orderd to Ingross them upon fair Paper of Vellum the Speaker with the whole house attend the Govern.r in the upper house and present the Bills then the Gov.r Reads the Title Signs and Seals the Bills and Says In the name of his Excellency William Lord Gaven Palatine Ratifie & confirm this Law every one of the other Deputys do and say the same each in the name of his Principall after a Bill is thus Ratified Signed and Sealed by the Govern.r and 4 Deputys it is then proclaimed and held for a Law neither the Members in the Council nor the house of Commons in the Province have any allowance for attending the Publick Service but do it at their own Expences

The LAWS of Carolina are either Acts of our own Assemblys or the Statute or Common Law of England It is taken for granted with us that no English Laws bind the Plantations except such as particularly mention them till they are put in force by an Act of Assembly in each particular Province because Promulgation is a matter absolutely necessary to render any Law absolutely ~~necessary~~ Obligatory the General Assembly first peruse all English Acts of Parliam.t draw up an Account of as many intire ones and parts of others as are fitt for this Province and by an Act of Assembly mentioning these Acts they put them in force thus we have Schedules of such English Acts of Parliam.t made into Laws beginning with the Great Charter of England and Running thro all the Statutes to those made in the Reign of his present Majesty and this is held to be the

most

most rational Method both for distinguishing such English Laws as are not proper for the Colony and for promulgating them that are by an Act of Assembly the Common Law of England is Ordained to be of force here in Cases not provided for by the Statutes of this Province with this Exception nevertheless that nothing of a Religious or Ecclesiastical Nature tho practiced in England by the Common Law shall be of any force in S. Carolina By the Laws of this Colony the Governour alone the Chief Justice alone any two of the Council or 2 Justices of the peace have the same power of granting Writs of habeas Corpus as the Justices of England have in any Bench and are under the same Penalties in Case of Neglect or Refusall tho it is a Commendation sufficient for Our Laws to say they are as nigh those of England as conveniently may be yet we have in severall things refined upon the English Laws for Instance the Jurys are not here returned by Sherriffs but the names of all the best qualified Persons in the Country agreed on by Act of Assembly are putt together in a Ballot Box at the End of every Court this is Sett upon the Table before the Judge and Bench and after it is Shaken a little Child draws out 48 names which are read and a List taken of them by the Sherriff that he may know whom he Summons these 48 are put into the Second Division of the Ballott Box out of which at the opening of the next Court another Child draws 12 who are to Serve as Jurors & if any just Exception be made he draws others untill the Jury be full the same method with little alteration is taken in returning Jurys for the Sessions of Peace the Names of those who have served are put in the third Division of the Box where they lye till those in the first Division are almost all drawn and then they are again

put

put in this the reason of their lyeing in the three Divisions is — because one Sett of Persons should not be too much burthened but that all should have an equal share of the trouble as nigh as may be the Ballott Box hath three Locks and keys Kept by 3 Several Persons appointed by the general Assembly whereof the Judge of the Court is one neither can the Box be opened without the pre= =sence of those three the reason of all this precaution in returning Jurys is for the better and more effectual preservation of the Lives and Estates of the Inhabitants for the Sherriffs Marshalls and all other such Officers being appointed by the Governour and keeping their places only during his pleasure if the ~~Power~~ Returning of Jurys lay in their power 'tis more than probable they might at some time or other pack such Instrum.ts as would be ready to qualifie him to the Ruin of any Person against — whom he had conceived Malice or displeasure considering therefore how easily frivilous and unjust prosecutions are set on foot and Evidences fit for any turn may be procured nothing can be a greater Security than this Noble Law for after all the Acts and Manaquv.ts between a Bad Governour Judge and an — Attorney Generall to carry on an illegall prosecution the whole contrivance is at last spoiled by the impossibility of packing a Jury for that purpose Our Legislators have wisely considerd the frailty and passions of Men how difficult it is for those in power to keep themselves within bounds and how inclined — they are to Resentm.t for which Reason tho they never endeav.d to abridge their Soverd.n power of doing good yet by this & other Methods they have Aimed at leaving them as few Opportunitys of doing ill as possible For Administration of Justice Courts of Common Pleas are held Quarterly by a Chief Justice and Some —

Assistants

Assistants No Cause less than 40 Shills can be brought before this Court
all under that Sum are determined expeditiously before a Justice of Peace
there is no other Court Superior to this but the Chancery of which the
Goverr. is Chief Judge and the other Councellors his Assistants All
Appeals from the Common Pleas are finally determined in Chancery
and from thence are issued out Supersedeas's to inferior Courts they Act
in that Court after the same manner and claim the same power
which the Court of Chancery have in England the same Judge and
Assistants who keep the Court of Common Pleas hold every 6 months
a Sessions of the Peace and Genral Goal delivery for the whole Province
they Sit generally 3 or 4 days at a time till all buisness is done This
Court is attended with all its proper Officers as the Kings Attorney
Constables Marshalls Goaler &c the Goverr. Signs the Warrant for
Execution of Criminals and hath power if he pleases to grant a
Reprieve till their Lordships either Pardon them or Signifie their pleasure
to the Contrary For the benefit of Merchants and others who are
going out of the Province and cannot tarry the common Methods of
proceeding at the ordinary Courts upon Application made to the Chief
Justice he is obliged by Law immediatly to call a Special Court to
determine their affairs, so that no Strangers have just cause of
complaining that the Laws of the Colony have not made Suitable
provision in their behalf. PROBATES of Wills & Letters of Administra.
are granted by the Goverr. in Council, who is reckoned the Ordinary of
the Place and gives marriage Licences with Blanks for the Names in the
Secretarys Office, but those who ~~are Bound~~ take them out generally give
Bond with Sufficient Securitys that they have no Wife already & that
their intended Marriage is in all respects legall All Writs & Precepts
Run in the name of his Excellency the Palatine and the rest of the
true and absolute Lords Proprietors ~~and in good Law Capias~~
~~Mesne the Secretary and Chief Justice~~ of Carolina the Attorneys are
Licenced by the Chief Justice the Chief Justice's Commission is from
the

the Lords Proprietors and is usually during Pleasure besides the Govern.r and Chief Justice the Lords Proprietors appoint the Receiv.r of their Revenues Surveyor General Havall Officer &c the Secretarys Business is to keep the Publick Records of the Country to take Care that they be fairly laid up to make and Record all Patents for Land to fill the Certificates of Surveyes to keep a Register of all Deeds Conveyances Probats of Wills and Letters of Administration to write Commissions for Officers Civill and Military the Receivor of the Lords Proprietors has the Charge of their Revenue receives the money paid for Sale and Rents of Lands all ffines in Criminal Cases and Escheats out of which he pays Sallarys to the Govern.r Chief Justice Kings Attorney and other Incident charges relating to the Support of the Govern.mt. The Treasurer for the Country is appointed by the house of Commons, he keeps all the Publick Accompts, receives all Taxes, Dutys and Imposts, appointed by Acts of Assembly, out of which he pays all Sums of Money ordained to be paid, by any Law of this Province or any Order or Ordinance of Parliam.t, signed by the Govern.r and Speaker of the house of Commons. Once during all the session of the Assembly a Committee of the house of Commons is appointed to Examine his Accompts, who generally make a Strict Enquiry, Compare every Article with his Vouchers, and then make report to the whole house, who if there be no just Objection, pass the Accompts, Order them to be Signed by the Speaker, and that is his Quietus; this frequent Examination of the Publick Revenues and disbursem.ts, keeps us from being Embarrassed with tedious and Intricate Accos. for the Defence of the Colony, Our Laws oblige every Male person from 16 to 60 years of Age, to bear Arms, who are all under their proper Captains, Majors and Colonels, by whom they are duely Exercised once in 2 Months. It is not here as in England, where an Ordinary

Mechanick

Mechanick thinks himself too good to be a Soldier, every one of us are versed in Arms from the Govern.r to the meanest Servt. and are also farr from thinking it below them, that most People take delight in Military Affairs and think no body so fitt to defend their Propertys as themselves. We have the same opinion of Arms as the Romans and other free People generally had, and believe them to be the best Intrusted with them, who have the greatest Interest there are also Enrolled in our Militia, a considerable Number of Active able Negroe Slaves, and the Law gives every one of them their freedom, who in the time of any Invasion, kills an Enemy, the Publick making Satisfaction to his Majesty, for the Damage Sustained by the Slaves Masters. BESIDES these Forces, English Officers are appointed over the Indians, with whom we are in Amity, who are Orderd with the utmost Expedition, to draw them down to the Sea Shore upon the first News of an Allarm; this is reckond a considerable part of Our Strength, for there being some thousands of those, who are hardy, Active and good Marksmen, excellent at Ambuscade, and who are brought together with little or no charge, in all probability if the French or Spaniards, should make any attempt upon Carolina, they might have reason to Repent it. The Arms which every one is obliged to have, and bring in to the field, are a good Fusee, carrying a Bullet, of Eighteen to the pound, a Cartridge Box so wrapt as to keep out all Water, with at least 15 Cartridges, a Sword or Cutlass, Worm Picker, Spare flints &c

The Inhabitants of Carolina, especially those born there, are dextrous and Expert in the use of fire Arms. If Regular Troops Excell in performing the Postures, this Militia is much Superiour in making

making a true Shott, the habit of Shooting so well is acquired by the frequent pursuit of Game in the Forrests. We have no Regular Troops in Carolina, except a very few in the Fort, and Centinels in Several places along the Coast, upon any Allarm there are proper Officers appointed to lead a Certain Body of Militia into those parts, where they may be most usefull. And as we have no regular Troops, for Many reasons we desire none. A Planter who keeps his Body fitt for Service, by Action, and a Regular life, is doubtless, a better Soldier, upon occasion, than a Company of Raw fellows raised in England, whose Spirits and Vigour are soon Pall'd, by an Idle, Effeminate Life, in a Warm Climate, & the same Charges, that would transport 2 or 3 Company's, of Regular Troops hither, to Serve as Soldiers, would send the Same number of able Men, and enable them to Settle as Planters, who by their Industry, would add to the Improvemt and Trade of the Province, and be equally Serviceable for its defence.

Since the beginning of the Warr we have exerted our-selves very much in the Defence of the Colony having fortifyed Charles-town with Strong and Regular Works and erected another Fort upon a point of Land at the Mouth of Ashley River which Commands the Channell so well that Ships can't pass by it when compleatly finished and furnished with large Guns. We have likewise been at great Expences in providing necessary Supplys of Arms and Ammunition besides this there has been undertaken Several forreign Expeditions one against St Augustines a Town & Garrison of the Spaniards on the Coast of Florida in the Lat of 29 Degrees & others against the Spaniards and Indians of Apalachie &

Shall

shall not trouble you with a long Account of those Enterprises, but only tell you Our forces entirely defeated and Ruined the Strength of the Spaniards in Florida destroyed the whole Country burned the Towns brought all the Indians who were not killed or made Slaves into our Territorys So that there remains now not so much as one Village with 10 houses in it in all Florida that is Subject to the Spaniards nor have they any houses or Cattle left but such as they can protect by the Guns of their Castle of St Augustines that alone being now in their hands and which is continually infested by the perpetual Incursions of the Indians Subject to this Province These expeditions have added very much to Our Strength and Safety first by reducing of the Spaniards power in Florida so that they are incapable of ever hurting us then by training of our Indian Subjects in the use of Arms and knowledge of War which would be of Great Service to us in Case of an Invasion from an Enemy and what is yet more considerable by drawing over to our Side & destroying all the Indians within Seven hundred Miles of Charlestown This makes it impracticable for any European Nation to Settle on this Coast not Subject to the Crown of England Great Britain because we are capable of giveing them continual Molestation by the Incursion of our Savages that they cannot easily Subsist or Venture to make any Improvem.ts

The Charges of these Fortifications and expeditions tho very necessary were so considerable that they created some uneasiness in the Assembly finding that it was in Vain to Struggle with the Difficulty by raising Annual Taxes which could not have been levyd soon enough to answer the present Exigency they Concluded to Stamp Bills of Credit first for about £6000 and having had experience of them about £10000 more Since By the Laws that Established the Bills of Credit their Currency is Secured to prosper any payment will them

is

is a Tender in Law So that if the Creditor refuses to take them he loses his money and the Debt is discharged from the Minute of refusall but we have had no Instance of that kind the Funds on which they are made being so good that they pass in all payments without any Demurr or dissatisfaction The House of Commons took Extraordinary Care that the Credit of these Publick Bills should be well established they Suffered none to be made by Private Banks not being willing to put it in their power to Injure the Publick but fixt them on Such foundations which nothing could destroy but what at the Same time should Ruin the whole Province that is upon Acts of Assembly appointing such Duty's as were not to be taken of but the Bills of Credit were utterly Cancelled Where never was yet found among us one Instance of Counterfitting these Bills and all imaginable care has been taken to prevent it for being Stampt with blanks for Summs they were brought into a Chamber adjoyning to the house of Commons where they were filled up by a Committee of 5. two Members of the Council and three of the Lower House who besides the Flouris and the Counterpart usual in England Signed them with their own hands and Sealed them with the Common Seal So that who ever attempted to Counterfeit must besides the Indenting and Intricate flourish imitate Five Several well known hands and Seale which could not long remain undiscovered Since all these Bills are Continually Circulating thro the Treasury after the Bills were Numbered Indented Signed & Sealed they were given to the Treasurer together with a Schedule of all Debts due from the Publick which he immediatly discharged with them Three Commissioners are appointed by the Assembly to Examine the Treasurers books weekly and to See that such Bills lying in his hands be Cancelled which the Necessary Expences of the Publick do not require to be used Our Bills of Credit were at first made to Run at 12 p Cent Interest but upon making the Second parcel the Assembly was Sensible of

of the great Inconveniency of that Method for it not only made the Currency more difficult by reason of the Indorsem.ts and Computing the time they had lain in the Treasury but gave the Treasurer likewise an Opportunity of Injuring the Publick by giving Credit for what time he thought fitt as often as they came into his hands besides the Interest gave Incouragm.t to People to hoord them up which was a Common prejudice by keeping so great a part of the Cash from circulating in Trade and lastly this decreasing Interest was such a Constant addition to the Publick debt that if Continued would have made it impossible to Sink the Bills in any reasonable time unless by troublesome Taxes — these reasons made the Assembly Enact that from that time forward the Bills of Credit should Run to all Intents and purposes as they had done without any Interest at all And we quickly found the benefitt of it for this both eased the Publick of a great Burthen and the Bills Circulated more in trade and with less difficulty among the Common People the — Assembly indeed by this Act opposed themselves to the Censure of those who little Regard the Publick so long as their own private Interest is advanced But they wisely considered to Save the Publick £2000 a year was more to be regarded than to gratifie the unreasonable Avarice of some particular persons it is probable there are very few Countrys where — Publick Credit is better preserved than with us or where paper Cash circulates more Smoothly and this proceeds from every ones being — Satisfyed of the goodness of the Funds and the Honour which the Assembly have always taken care of to preserve in discharging all such Demands upon the Publick together with the good Husbandry they have used in disposing of the Publick money frugality being an usual Virtue in large Governm.ts and absolutely necessary in small ones, Bills of Credit with us have never fallen Lower than the Intrinsick nor can they well do so upon the principles whereon they are established There are in S. Carolina no Taxes at present either on Real or personal Estates but the Publick Revenue arises from Duty's laid upon all Spirits Wines

Wines and other Liquors upon Slaves Sugars Molasses flour Biskett &c upon all Dry goods Imported 3 p Cent and three pence p Skin upon all Deer Skins exported all these Duty's together may at present amount to about £4500 p Annum of which the great Disbursem.ts are as follow Viz.t

To 10 Ministers of the Church of England	£1000.—
For finishing and Repairing Fortifications	£1000.—
For the Officers of Forts and Sent.ls	£.600.—
To the Governour	£.200.—
For Militia Stores	£.300.—
Accidentall Charges	£.400.—
	£3500.—

Which taken out of £4500 there remains yearly £1000 to cancell so many of the Bills of Credit this Computation is nigh the Truth this present year but the State of things is alterable either by unexpected demands on the Publick or by Increase of Trade and consequently of the Revenue Assessments have seldom been with us where there are any the Method is for the Assembly to Ascertain the Sum to be raised and appoint Assessors who shall lay it equally upon all Real and personall Estates throughout y.e Province they appoint likewise Officers in every Precinct who return to the Assessors upon Oath a Schedule both of the Persons and Estates in their respective divisions all Persons who are assessed have the Priviledge that if they believe themselves taxed for more than their due proportion they may Swear to the real value of their Estates and so procure an abatem.t of what they are over-rated & Besides Bills of Credit the Money most commonly in this Province are French Pistoles Spanish and Arabian Gold which before the late Act to Regulate the Currency of Money in the English

English Colonys past at 6/3 a pennyweight and three pence every odd grain Dutch and German Dollors and Peruvian peices of Eight at 5 Slud Mexican peices of 8 of 12 pennyweight at 5 Slud every pennyweight above 12 to 17 being 3d more We have likewise 7 & 8 3/4 peices of Spanish money commonly called Ryalls and half Ryals there is little English money but what goes at 50 ℔ Cent advance that is a Crown at 7/6 a Guinea at 32/3 and so in proportion

S Carolina was first settled about the year 1667 the generall Laws then in force in Great Brittain contributing very considerably to send the first English Colonys hither It has likewise had a large addition of Inhabitants by the Revocation of the Edict of Nantz The French Refugees have found here a pleasant and safe retreat from the Church Discipline of their Dragooning Apostles they live in good friendship with and are received by the English who being Sensible that their Assistance has not a little contributed to Improve the Country have been ready to oblige them upon all Occasions wherein it it lay in their power as in passing general Laws of Naturalization and admit them into all Sorts Civil and Military and this good understanding not only continues but Increases daily by Cohabitation and Intermarriages the European Inhabitants of this Province are for the most part People of Sobriety & Industry which together with the Advantage of the Climate enables them to live in great plenty of most things necessary for Life I may venture to say that this Country is much better improved than any English Colony on the Continent of America in proportion to the length of time and Stock of English money Originally expended in Setting it No People are more Hospitable Generous and willing to do good Offices to Strangers every one is ready to Entertain them freely with the best they have The Morosness and Sullenness of Temper so Common in other places is very rare among us tho we are so happily Situated that no body is obliged to beg or want Food yet the Charity of the Inhabitants is very remarkable in taking Suitable Methods to prevent any persons falling into extream necessity

for Commissionrs are appointed by Act of Assembly to take care of the Poor and necessary helps are settled for that end tho' there are few occasions to make use of this Provision unless towards the Widows or Children of such Strangers who dye before they are comfortably settled and even in these Cases so many People are inclined to help them that the Commissionrs are not often troubled their Neighbours or such taking one or two of such unfortunate Children whom they not only Educate and provide for with a great deal of humanity during their Minority but likewise are very generous and liberall in assisting them after they are growen up to Settle themselves in the World for People are not yet arrived to that Sordid temper and partial fondness to breed their own Children to the height of Delicacy and suffer others of the same blood and Nation to be destitute of the Comon necessarys of Life those born of European Parents are for the most part very Temperate and have Generally an Aversion to excessive drinking I can not at present call to mind above 2 or 3 in the whole Province addicted to that Vice, they are likewise Ingenious of good Capacitys and quick apprehensions and have heads excellently turned for Mechanicall works & Inventions with little or no teaching they'le make Houses Sloops Boats and the like all People in the Colony are either Planters Traders Artizans Indian Subjects or Negroe Slaves A Planter is a Comon Denomination for those who live by their own and their Servants Industry Improve their Estates following Tillage or graizing and make those Comoditys which are transported from hence to Great Britain and other places. It is not necessary to insert the exact Number of the several Inhabitants but the proportion they bear to one another and each to the whole are as follow Viz.t

Whites { Planters .. 8½ / Traders .. 1½ / Artizans .. 2 } to 12 } Whites .... to the whole as 12 / Indian Subjects 66 / Negroe Slaves 22 } to 100

There are very few European Servants and these are treated with as

much

much gentleness as any where in the World being seldom put to any other Employ than to Exercise some trade Oversee a Plantation or to carry Goods to Market the greatest Drudgerys being performed by Slaves and upon the Expiration of 4 years they who came Servants are as free in all respects & as much Intituled to the Priviledges of the Country as any other Inhabitants whatsoev. By many Acts of General Assembly all forreign Protestants of what Denomination Soever are made Denizens within three months after their Arrival and no other qualification required than to go before some Majestrate and take the Oath of Allegiance by which the Person is naturalized to all intents and purposes it must needs be acceptable to all good Christians to hear that Religion and Piety have Increased and flourished among us in good Measure The labours of some Reverend Persons who have exerted themselves in the Service of their Great Master having been blessed with very desireable Success which besides the Advantages in Respect to a future life has also greatly contributed to the good of the Society by refining those dispositions which were otherwise rude and untractable

There are 8 Ministers of the Church of England 3 French Protestant Congregations where of two of their Ministers are lately Proselyted to the Church 5 of British Presbytarians One of Anna Baptists and a small one of Quakers the Ministers of the Church of England have each £100 ℔ Ann paid out of the Publick Treasury besides Contributions and Perquisites from their Parishioners the Other Ministers are maintained by voluntary Subscriptions

Nothing can be more reasonable than the price of Land We must do their Lordships the Justice to say they have always in that respect dealt with great favour and gentleness the first 20 years they got little or nothing at all and since not much more than will barely support the necessary Charges of the Government by this Conduct the Proprietors have advanced the Interest of the English Nation to their own present

Loss for if their Lordships had not remitted many years of the Arrears of the Rent if they had not waited a great while for Money due for Lands and Suffered the People to Supply themselves with Slaves before they paid it if they had not sold the Lands and Established the Rent at so — Moderate a Rate the Country had not been in Circumstance to purchase all the Effects brought yearly from Great Brittain in 20 Sail of Ships as they now do The Method has hitherto been for Men to Settle themselves upon a peice of Ground Improvent Raise Stock Plant Orchards and make such Comodity's which being sold procured the Slaves Horses Household goods and the like conveniency's and after this was done in 7 or 8 years they might begin to think it time to — Pay their Lordships for their Land, Free and Common Soccage is the Tenure by which Lands are held a Small Quit Rent being paid Annually to the Proprietors as Lords of the Fee in lieu of all Services Perquisites and demands whatsoev. There is two ways of taking out Titles one is by Purchase at £20 ℔ 1000 Acres the other is without any Purchase money paid down but by taking out a Patent upon Condition to pay yearly to the Lords Proprietors a penny for each Acre Every one is at liberty to chuse which of those Methods he will tho the former being preferable is the more common The Tenour of the Grants of Lands from the Proprietors Runs to this purpose first their Lordships Title by a Charter from King — Charles the Second is Recited then in Consideration of so much money there acknowledged to be received they Sell Alienate and make over unto A B his heirs &c A Plantation containing so many Acres of Land Scituate and Lying in such a County and having such a form and Marks as appears by the Plan of it Annexed &c or they paying yearly for the Same One Shilling for each hundred Acres in Lieu of all Dues and demands whatsoever When a Person would take up Land as we term it he first views the

place

place and Satisfies himself that no other has a Property there and then goes to the Secretary and takes out a Warrant for the quantity he desires Warrants ready Signed by the Governour are left with proper blanks in the Secretary's Office and directed to the Surveyor Impowering him to Measure and Lay out Such a Number of Acres for Such a person and to Return a Plan and Certificate thereof in to the Secretary's Office then the Secretary files the Certificate and writes a Grant of the form where of is Settled by Act of the Assembly which he Annexes to the Plan and Carrys it to the Council day in to the Council to be Signed by the Governour and such of the Council as are Trustees for the Sale of Lands and Sealed with the Publick Seal of the Colony If the Grant is to be for Lands purchased a Record of the Receipt of the purchase money by the Lords Receiver must be produced as a Warrant for Signing the Patent If any one Designs to make a Plantation in this Province out of the Woods the first thing to be done is after cutting down a few trees to Split Pallisadoes or Clapboards and therewith make Small houses or huts to Shelter the Slaves after that while some Servants are clearing Land others are employed in Squaring or Sawing Wall plates Posts Rafters Boards and Shingles for a Small house for the Family which usually Serves for a Kitchin afterwards when they are in Circumstances to build a larger during the time of this Preparation the Master Overseer or white Servants go every Evening to the next neighbours house where they are Lodged and Entertained Kindly without any Charges and if the Person have a Wife or Children they are commonly left in some Friends house till a Suitable dwelling house and conveniencys are provided fitt for them to live decently The properest time to begin a Settlement is in Sept. or at farthest before the first of December the time between that and the first of March is Spent in Cutting down and burning the Trees and

of the ground designed to be Sowen that year Splitting Rails and making Fences Round the Corn ground and pastures the Smallest computation usually made is that each labouring person will in this time clear three Acres fitt for Sowing in the Second Fall or Winter after a Plantation is Settled they make Gardens Plant Orchards build Barns and other Convenient houses The third Winter Persons of any Substance provide Brick Lime or other Materials in Order to build a good house The Lime here is all made of Oyster shells ~~burnt~~ burnt with Wood of these there is great Plenty lying in and by all Creeks and Rivers in great beds or heaps where large boats are laden at low Water our Cows graze in the Forrest their Calves being Seperated from them and kept in pastures fenced in, they return home at Night to Suckle them they are first milked then Shut up in Fold all night Milked again in the Morning and then turned out into the Woods Hogs rove Several Miles over the Forrests eating such Nuts & ground Roots as they can find but having a Shelter will be at home to keep them warm and something given them to Eat they generaly Return every evening People who design to make their Fortunes in New Countrys should consider before hand what Method or Course of Life they propose to follow when they arrive here & not flatter themselves with vain fancys as if Riches were to be got without Industry or taking Suitable Methods to attain them It is Encouragment Sufficient for rational Men to know that when due means are used they Seldom fail of obtaining the End, In this Province a little will Serve to put a Person in a way of living, comfortably as any place what soever, and perhaps less; that you and your friends may truly be convinced of this, without being led into any Mistakes, I will first Insert an Account of what

will Settle a Planter to live with Comfort and Decency and next a list of what is Sufficient to Settle an Estate of £300 a year from which you may proportion other conditions of Life as you Please in order to live comfortably after a Man's own and family's passage is paid and Cloths bought for the first year or two he must have—

2 Negroe Slaves	@£40	£80.. —
4 Cows and Calves	@£1..5..	5.. —
1 Sows 15 Shill. a Canoo		6.. —
a Steel Mill or pair of Querns		3.. —
Axes hoes Wedges hand saws Hamers & other Tools		2.. —
200 Acres of Land £1 Surveying &c Charges £2		6.. —
a Small house the first year or two		8.. —
Corn Peas Beef pork &c for the first year		14.. —
Expense and Contingencys		26.. —
Charges of Settling an Estate of £30 p Ann		£150.. — .. —

This Calculation is made in the Money of the Province which is just £100 Sterl the things mentioned here are of Necessity to One who would Settle with any tolerable Decency and from this Small beginning by moderate Industry accompanyd with the blessing of Heaven a Man may get a Competent Estate and live very handsomly but there are many who Settle without any Slaves at all but labour themselves—

Here follows An Acct. of what is necessary to Settle an Estate of £300 p Ann with the value of the particulars as most commonly sold there

30 Negros 15 Men and 15 Women each at £40		£1200 —
20 Cows and Calves each	@£1..5..	25 —
2 Mares 1 Stone horse each £10. 6 Sows and 1 Boar £6		36 —
1000 Acres of Land £20 Surveying &c £7		27 —
a large Periagua £20 a Small Canoo £2. a Steel Mill £4		26 —
10 Hoes 4 a Ram £7 Three Dozen of Ax's £6		13 —
Hoes hatchets Broad Axes Nail's Saw's Hammers Wedges Maulrings & other Necessary Tools		23.. —

A Plow

1 Ploughs Carts with their Harness and Irons ... £10 —
1 a Small house for the 1st year or 2 asterio.s a Kitchin .... 20 —
30 Bushels of Indian Corn and peas @ 2/6 ₰ ... } 50 —
Bushel with some Beef Pork &c for the 1st years provision
Expences and Contingencys ... ... 70 —
An Estate of £300 ₰ Annum Totale ... £1500 —

This Sum of Carolina Money being reduced to Sterl.g makes £1000 —
the 30 Negros beginning to work in Sept.r or Octo.r will clear 90 —
Acres of Land Plough and hoe it half of which that is 45 Acres
sowed with Rice will after the Comon Computation yield 1000 —
weight an Acre which sold at 15 Shill 100 the Middle price ..
amounts to £337 .. 10 — the other 45 Acres are to be sowed with
Indian Corn Peas Pompions Potatoes Melons and other —
Eatables for the good of the family.

I am so farr from exceeding the due bounds in this Calcu-
-lation that I don't by much come up to what I know is —
annually done by many this shews the Difference of purchasing
an Estate of Land in England and settling one in this Province
for the Sum of £1000 laid out in England at 20 years purchase
will buy but £50 ₰ Annum and here it Settles £337 .. 10 Shill per
Annum money of this Colony which is £225 Sterl.g beside's —
maintaining a house in great Plenty with most sorts of —
provisions necessary for life and to give the larger allowance
I have not inserted the profit to be made in Remitting the £1000 —
in proper Goods but have reckond it as brought hither in Specie —

The best time for Europeans to arrive here in respect of
health is in Sept.r for then they have 8 months moderate Weather
before the heat comes in which time the Climate will become
agreable. This Country perhaps may not abound with so

many

many Parliaments which generally the Rich and great Affect but for such as have experienced the frowns of Fortune and have yet something left to make a handsom Retreat from the World for those who affect Solitude Contemplation Gardens Groves Woods and the like Innocent delights of Plain and Simple nature and who with a Small fortune would provide some Competent fixt Settlem.ts for themselves and Children there can scarce any place in the — British Dominions be found that will better Answer their Expectations As there are no Beggars among us so we can't pretend there are many vastly Rich persons Estates exceeding £1000, or — £1200 ℔ Annd. and from theme gradually down to £30. most of us enjoy that State of Life which most People reckon the happiness of a Moderate Subsistance without the vexation of Dependance

When I consider what Importance this Colony may be in time to the British Nation the great Quantity of their Manufactures it might take off and the Variety of Commodities which it is Capable of producing to make suitable Returns I am perfectly surprized there should not be the first care taken to Increase the number of its Inhabitants, if the small Number here present Employ 22 Sail of Ships from England besides 60 Smaller Vessels from other parts to what a height may the Trade be brought if the People were 50 times the Number they are now which the Country would easily Contain the Situation of this Province is such as not to interfere with England in any of its Branches of Manufactures, there is no Money Required to be Sent hither, It is capable of producing many Commodities which are now brought from other Nations by Money exported from England

The

The Govern^t. may always regulate the Trade as they please which they cannot do in other forreign Dominions but by treaty and Consent S. Carolina might be made usefull to Great Brittain, if the Lords Commissio^rs would be pleased to Concert Measures for sending hither all or at least some of the most necessary Commodity's which the Country is capable of producing for which end it might not be Amiss to Consult the growth and product of such Countrys as lye in or near the Same Latitude & from Correspondents there as Consuls or Merch^ts to get Seed of each kind well preserved and as soon as possible remitt them to Carolina. Such for Instance as Almonds Dates Olives of Severall kinds Coffee Tea great Variety of Grape Stones all Sorts of Drugs from Barbary, Persia, Egypt, Syria &c

Codex
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